

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 2 and 4. Thus, claims 1, 3 and 5-10 are pending in the application with claims 6-10 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (U.S. Patent No. 3,641,374). Claims 2, 3, 4, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Nakamura (JP 2000350426). Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejections.

Amended independent claim 1 recites in part:

each of the A-phase, B-phase and C-phase generating coils comprises a non neutral side coil terminal and a neutral side coil terminal, and the rectifier assembly comprises a neutral diode for making neutral point connection, and the neutral diode comprises a diode chip, a package for sealing the diode chip and a drawing-out terminal drawn out from the package, the drawing-out terminal comprises a first, second and third connecting terminals commonly connected to each other, and the neutral side coil terminal of the A-phase generating coil is connected to the first connecting terminal, and the neutral side coil terminal of the B-phase generating coil is connected to the second connecting terminal, and the neutral side coil terminal of the C-phase generating coil is connected to the third connecting terminal.¹

¹ Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 2.

In support of the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Sato discloses “the non neutral coils 2a-c have a neutral side coil terminal 3a-c (see figure 1) and the rectifier 4 has a neutral diode (elements 7, 7’) for making a neutral connection for connecting the first, second, third neutral terminals connected together (see figure 1).” However, nowhere does Sato teach or suggest a neutral diode which comprises a diode chip, a package for sealing the diode chip and a drawing-out terminal drawn out from the package, and the drawing-out terminal comprises a first, second and third connecting terminals commonly connected to each other, as required by claim 1.

As shown in Figure 1, Sato discloses rectifying means 4 which include main rectifying elements 5a, 5b, 5c, 5a’, 5b’ and 5c’ and additional rectifying elements 7 and 7’. The rectifying elements 7 and 7’ are connected to each other through a lead 8, to which neutral leads 3a, 3b and 3c are also connected. In particular, the rectifying elements 7 and 7’ are provided with respective terminals 7a and 7a’ which are soldered to the lead 8’ which serves the neutral point (see Sato at column 2, lines 59-63). Accordingly, as shown in Figure 4, Sato merely discloses each of the neutral diodes 7 and 7’ have a single terminal 7a and 7a’.

With regard to subject matter of dependent claim 2 which is now recited in claim 1 and dependent claims 3 and 5, the Examiner asserts that “Nakamura discloses ... a generator 21 having non neutral coil terminals connected to rectifier 52 through terminals d, e, f and neutral terminals of coils commonly connected to neutral part c and each coil terminal is between an anode and [a] cathode of a neutral diode (see figure 14).” However, the Examiner’s rejection of

the dependent claims does not address or mention the claimed features which are missing from the cited references.

Further, with regard to dependent claims 3 and 5, Applicant submits the combined references fail to teach or suggest:

(a) the anode drawing-out terminal comprises a first, second and third connecting terminals commonly connected to each other, and the negative side neutral diode comprises a negative side diode chip and a cathode drawing-out terminal connected to a cathode of the negative side diode chip, the cathode drawing-out terminal comprises a first, second and third connecting terminals commonly connected to each other; as required by claim 3; and

(b) the neutral diode further comprises two diode chips and a resin package for sealing the two diode chips, the first, second and third connecting terminals form a drawing-out terminal drawn out from the resin package, and the drawing-out terminal is connected to the anode of one diode chip among the two diode chips and the cathode of the other diode chip, as required by claim 5.

Lastly, Nakamura fails to teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention which are missing from Sato. For example, similar to Sato, Nakamura teaches that each of the neutral diodes have a single terminal.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3 and 5 would not have been anticipate by Sato or rendered obvious in view of Sato, alone or combined with Nakamura, because the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/500,582

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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